

M I N U T E S

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Committee Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000

**February 28, 2002
Siuslaw Conference Room B Eugene District Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Category 1: Judy Fitzgerald, Peter Hackett, Ross Mickey, Joanell Mogstad, and Steve Woodard

Category 2: Edward Alverson, James Baker, Robert Keefer, Penny Lind, and James Thrailkill

Category 3: Harold Hinman, Jamon Kent, John Lindsey, and June Olson

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Category 1: None

Category 2: James Fairchild

Category 3: None

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Category 1: None

Category 2: None

Category 3: Anna Morrison

ALTERNATES ABSENT:

Category 1: David Schmidt

Category 2: Linda Susan Kelly

Category 3: Philip Barnhart, William Dwyer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayne Elliott (Designated Federal Official), Julia Dougan (Eugene District Manager), Dan Buckwall, Mark Buehrig, Rick Colvin, Maya Fuller, Bill Gilmore, Doug Huntington, Rocky McVay, Don Meckley, Sally Nun, Jerry Richeson, Pat Russell, Nikki Swanson, Mark Wilkening, and Nancy Wogen

WELCOME

Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott called the meeting of the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 to order at 9:20 a.m.

Mr. Elliott stated that the RAC had been formed in accordance with Public Law 106-393 enacted by Congress and signed by President Clinton in October 2000. He stated that public notice of the meeting had been published in the *Federal Register* on January 16, 2002 and *The Eugene Register-Guard* on February 20, 2002. He explained that a public forum was included on the agenda in the afternoon session.

Mr. Elliott introduced Julia Dougan, BLM Eugene District Manager.

Ms. Dougan expressed appreciation to members for their willingness to serve on the RAC. She said she believed the experience would be challenging and rewarding. She said the committee was formed because of the conviction that those who live closest to resources should make decisions about their use. She said members had been chosen to reflect the ~~A~~personality of the district.@

Ms. Dougan explained that Public Law 106-393 was a new mechanism for collaboration, cooperation, and communication in the pursuit of conservation. She said its implementation was the highest priority of the BLM Eugene District.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members and alternates introduced themselves, as follows:

Edward Alverson

Represents The Nature Conservancy, a national environmental organization
Area resident for 15 years
Botanist
Focus on working collaboratively
Organization works with landowners to identify properties for preservation

Philip Barnhart

Mr. Barnhart's secretary, Sally Nunn, explained Phil's prior commitment at the special session of the state legislature in Salem. Sally explained that she was taking notes and information for Phil, but was not representing Phil at the meeting.

James Baker

Represents the Oregon Natural Resource Council (ONRC) and a number of other local and regional environmental organizations.
President of the McKenzie Guardians.
Retired
Tree and rhododendron farmer

Judy Fitzgerald

President of Lane County American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), representing organized labor

James Fairchild

Represents the Audubon Society, a national environmental organization
Focus on education, seeking to form nature education centers and sanctuaries

Peter Hackett

Represents organized labor
Avid outdoor recreationist

Harold Hinman

Tree Farmer, representing public at large

Robert Keefer

Superintendent of Willamalane Park District, formerly Lane County Parks Manager
Represents dispersed recreation

Steve Woodard

Represents commercial timber industry
Tree farmer
Retired Oregon State University Professor of Forestry

Jamon Kent

Superintendent of Springfield School District 19
Representing public at large
No previous BLM involvement

Penny Lind

President of Umpqua Watershed Council, representing local environmental organizations
President and founder of Community Trail Volunteers
Forest land manager, environmental concerns

John Lindsey

Elected official, Linn County Board of County Commissioners
Family woodland recreation interests
Concerned about protected species

Joni Mogstad

Represents multiple developed outdoor recreation interests
Retired Lane County Sheriff's Officer

Ross Mickey

President of American Forest Resource Council
Represents commercial timber industry
Member of Willamette Province Advisory Committee
Former United States Forest Service forest planning employee
Focus on better leverage of available resources

June Olson

Cultural Resources Manager for Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. Representing American Indian tribes. Graduated from the U of O. Her Grandmother was a member of the Calapooya tribe and lived along the Long Tom River.

James Thrailkill

Coordinator of McKenzie Watershed Council, represents local environmental organizations
Focus on collaboration and cooperation

MEETING GUIDELINES AND AGENDA

Mark Wilkening introduced himself and stated that he would be facilitator for RAC meetings. He said it was his responsibility to assist the committee to follow the meeting guidelines, meet the objectives of a meeting, and honor time elements of its agenda.

Mr. Wilkening reviewed Meeting Guidelines, as follows:

1. Practice collaborative behavior
2. Do not interrupt others and please no side conversations
3. Everyone gets a chance to speak
4. Listen with respect
5. Listen first to understand
6. Make sure to extend an understanding to the expertise of each committee member
7. Focus on committee issues and objectives
8. Leadership is the responsibility of all members
9. Be recognized before speaking
10. Start on time. Late-Comers can catch up
11. Recognize everyone's ideas
12. Be clear and concise when speaking; don't ramble
13. Ground rules can be amended as needed

Mr. Wilkening reviewed the agenda of the meeting.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. Elliott reviewed background for Public Law 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. He said it had been created because revenue to counties from forest products from land managed by the BLM and US Forest Service had been sharply curtailed in recent years. He explained that, for each year 2001 through 2006, counties would receive a payment based on the average of their top three years of payments between 1986 and 1999.

Mr. Elliott explained that 80 to 85 percent of the payments, Title I, were to be used for schools and roads. He also explained that 15 to 20 percent of the payments were to be used for Title II, improvements in special projects on Federal lands, and Title III, County projects.

Mr. Elliott said Title II projects could include improvements in forest ecosystem health; soil productivity improvement; watershed restoration and maintenance; control of noxious or exotic weeds and re-establishment of native species; road, trail and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration; and restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat.

Mr. Elliott said at least 50 percent of Title II funds needed to be used for road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration; or for stream and watershed restoration projects. He said Title II project proposals could be submitted by anyone who worked with an appropriate federal agency, state or local government, private or nonprofit organization, or landowner where the project would take place. He said the projects had to take place on federally administered land (with some exceptions), or on adjacent non-federal lands where the project would clearly benefit resources on federal lands.

Members discussed the use of Title II funds.

Mr. Mickey asked if the 50 percent requirement applied to the distribution of a single RAC or to the RACs throughout the State of Oregon. Mr. Elliott replied that he would have an answer to the question researched.

Mr. Elliot described the process for submitting a Title II project, as follows:

1. Fill out a project submission form and monitoring plan
2. Submit the form to the Designated Federal Official, who will submit it to the RAC.
3. The RAC recommends the project with a majority vote of each of its three membership categories.
4. If the RAC recommends a project, it will be submitted to the Eugene District Manager
5. The District Manager will approve funding of the project (pending final delegation of authority).
6. Project implementation phase begins.

Mr. Mickey asked if there was a limit on the amount of administrative overhead a project sponsor could charge. Mr. Elliott replied that the law permitted support of projects, but was unclear on any limits that were to be set.

Mr. Elliott said Title III projects were strictly county projects and could only include search and rescue and emergency services; community service work camps; fire prevention and county planning related to fire prevention; forest related educational opportunities; county easement purchases for recreation or conservation purposes; or community forestry.

Mr. Elliott said anyone could submit projects that meet Title III requirements to the commissioners of a county in which the project was to be completed. He explained that if the commissioners approved a project, it would be advertised for a 45-day comment period and the RAC would be notified of their decision.

Mr. Elliott reviewed RAC requirements, as follows:

- RACs are formed to improve collaborative relationships.
- RACs are to recommend Title II projects to the Designated Federal Official and District Manager.
- RACs are to provide opportunities for the public and all interested parties to participate.
- RACs are to be made up of five members and two alternatives from each of two subgroups (21 members total)
- RAC members are to be solicited by the BLM and counties
- BLM officials and County Commissioners are to recommend RAC members for appointment by the US Secretary of Interior

Mr. Elliott reviewed the representation of each RAC membership category, as follows:

Category 1

- Labor
- Developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users or commercial recreational activities
- Energy and mineral development interests
- Commercial timber industry
- Holders of federal grazing or other land use permits

Category 2

- Nationally recognized environmental organizations
- Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
- Dispersed recreational activities
- Archaeological and historical interests

- _ Wild horse and burro interests (national or regional)

Category 3

- _ Holder of State elected office (or designee)
- _ Holder of county or local elected office
- _ American Indian tribes within or adjacent to area which committee represents
- _ School officials or teachers
- _ Public at large

Mr. Elliot explained that there were five BLM RACs in the State of Oregon and seven Forest Service RACs. He also explained that the BLM Eugene District included Lane County and portions of Linn and Douglas Counties

Mr. Elliott reviewed key dates for implementation of Public Law 106-393, as follows:

October 30, 2000	Law enacted
February 1, 2002	Title II projects submitted for FY 2002
February 28, 2002	First RAC meeting
March 14, 2002	Second RAC meeting
June 1, 2002	Title II projects must be presented to the RAC for FY 2003
By September 1 of each year until 2006	RAC must complete its review and submit Title II Projects for each succeeding year
By September 30 of each year until 2006	Deadline for submission of Title II projects for funding

Members discussed the implications of needing to complete recommendations regarding two-years of applications for Title II project funding before September 1, 2002.

Mr. Elliott reviewed Title II project submittal forms included in members' notebooks distributed in advance of the meeting.

Members took a ten-minute break from the agenda of the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF THE ACT

Rocky McVay stated that he was Executive Director of the Association of Oregon and California (O&C) Counties. He reviewed various elements of Public Law 106-393, as follows:

- _ The legislation was signed October 30, 2000
- _ Three types of land are involved:

- Land Managed by U.S. Forest Service
- O&C Land Managed by BLM
- Roseburg and Coos Bay Wagon Road Land
- _ Title II created RACs and their funding
- _ Three Aelections@ of counties:
 - Whether to participate in the legislation
 - How much to annually designate for special project (15-20 percent)
 - How much of special project fund to annually designate for Title II and Title III
- _ Funding from first year's cycle is currently available
- _ Unappropriated funding in each cycle must be returned
- _ Appointment to committee membership is for three years, with re-appointment likely on request
- _ Legislation is a Acontinuing appropriation@ for six years -- \$460 million each year, \$267 million each year to Oregon
- _ Project overruns need to be anticipated by creation of contingency fund, drawing from next year's appropriation, withholding funding for non-contracted projects
- _ Multi-year projects are permitted
- _ Projects can be funded by Title II and Title III allocations
- _ Projects on non-federal land are permitted within the RAC area, if there is a benefit to the federal resource
- _ Administrative Costs and Overhead are to be considered a cost of doing business and will be reviewed at the conclusion of each project
- _ Other sources of funding, such as the National Fire Plan, can be applied for and combined for projects
- _ Reports to Congress will be made through oversight hearings and will likely include representatives from the Eugene District RAC

Mr. McVay emphasized that the legislation was temporary and would last for only six years. He said revenue for its projects would be allocated from land-generated funds before it was considered for other appropriations.

Members discussed Public Law 106-393.

Mr. Fairchild asked if the Lane or Linn Board of County Commissioners would review Title II projects recommended for funding by the RAC. Mr. McVay replied that it was unlikely any project not approved by commissioners would be funded. Mr. Elliott added that most likely all projects proposed for 2002 funding would be approved by the respective county commissioners. He added that there is no language in the approved charter saying specifically that county commissioners shall give any prior approval to a list of projects before the RAC reviews such projects. Mr. McVay noted that three county commissioners served as members and alternates of the Eugene RAC.

Mr. Lindsey reported that the Linn Board of County Commissioners had determined that it would object to any project being approved that ran counter to its claims in litigation with the federal government regarding road obliteration.

RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Mr. Elliott made a presentation regarding RACs.

Mr. Elliott said the objectives and purpose of the RAC were to improve collaborative relationships between the BLM and local communities and to provide advice and recommendations regarding proposed projects to the Secretary of Interior. He said the geographic scope of the jurisdiction of the committee was the boundaries of the BLM Eugene District. He explained that the committee was expected to continue until September 30, 2006, but that it was subject to periodic review and re-chartering every two years.

Mr. Elliott reviewed the duties and description of the RAC and its work, as follows:

1. Review projects proposed for Committee consideration under Title II.
2. Propose projects and sources of funding to the Secretary of the Interior.
3. Provide continuous coordination with appropriate land management agency officials.
4. Provide frequent opportunities for citizens, organizations, tribes, land management agencies, and other interested parties to participate openly and meaningfully.
5. Committee is comprised of 15 members, five representing the interests of three categories; plus six additional alternate members, two representing the interests of each category.
6. Member qualifications:
 - a) Education, training, knowledge, or experience to give informed and objective advice regarding a relevant industry, discipline, or interest.
 - b) Demonstrated experience or knowledge of the geographical area under the jurisdiction of the RAC.
 - c) Demonstrated commitment to collaborative decision making and consensus building when confronted with contentious issues.

7. Committee members are appointed to serve three-year terms and, if approved, may be re-appointed to consecutive three-year terms.
8. Members may be terminated, after written notice, if removal is in the public interest.
9. If a member fails to attend two consecutive meetings, without good cause, that member's position may be declared vacant.
10. A vacancy is filled by the designated first alternate for the category for which a position is vacant.
11. Alternate vacancies will be filled by the Secretary of Interior, using the same process for soliciting candidate nominations used initially to fill the membership.
12. Members are required to disclose their direct or indirect interests in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by the BLM, or in any litigation related to them, including the holdings of a spouse or dependent child.

Mr. Elliott distributed copies of a document entitled ~~Information on Conflict of Interest~~ for Advisory Board Members and encouraged members to study its provisions.

1. Members serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses when on committee business.
2. Election of a chairperson occurs annually. Election is by member majority.
3. Members designate first and second alternates for each category.
4. The role of an alternate is to fill vacancies on the committee.
5. A quorum to constitute an official committee meeting consists of three members from each of the three categories.
6. If a majority of members from each of the three categories approve a project, it may be recommended by the committee to the Secretary of Interior.
7. All projects must be submitted to the RAC for its consideration prior to June 1 of any Federal fiscal year to be considered for approval during that year. The RAC will complete its review of projects and form its recommendations on projects on or before September 1. The RAC will approve and recommend a sufficient number of projects to obligate at least the full amount of the Title II project funds reserved in the fiscal year.
8. The Designated Federal Official shall submit a description of Title II projects the RAC recommends to be funded to the Secretary of Interior or a designated representative no later than September 30.
9. The RAC may recommend that funding for a project come solely from Title II resources, or from a combination of Title II and other resources.
10. Required Description of Projects:
 - The purpose and a description of how the project will meet the purposes of the Act.
 - The anticipated duration of the project.
 - The proposed source of funding for the project.
 - Expected outcomes:
 - ✧ A detailed monitoring plan.

⌘ An assessment that the project is to be in the public interest.

11. RAC meetings:

- Called by the Designated Federal Official.
- Must have Designated Federal Official or a representative present.
- All meeting are open to the public and news media.
- Any organization, association or individual may file a statement with or appear before the committee regarding topics on a meeting agenda.

12. The RAC may conduct field trips or other field examinations for its members to aid in their review and evaluation of proposed projects or to examine resources or resource related activities.

13. Minutes of RAC meetings will be kept and contain:

- Complete and accurate descriptions of matters discussed and conclusions reached.
- Copies of all documents received, issued or approved by the RAC.
- Accuracy of the minutes will be certified by the RAC Chairperson.
- Copies of the minutes will be kept at the office of the Designated Federal Official and made available for public inspection.

14. The nationally estimated annual cost of operating a RAC is \$50,000, including six work months of Federal employee support. No Title II funds for such costs are to be used without the agreement of the RAC.

Mr. Elliott said the Eugene District estimated its fiscal year 2002 use of Title II funds, as follows:

- _ RAC operating costs (Meeting room rentals, note taking, food, travel, per diem, etc.) about \$20,000
- _ BLM indirect cost (Administrative support, etc.) B ten percent of the program total
- _ BLM project support costs (Environmental clearances, surveys, etc.) B twenty to thirty percent of the program total

Mr. Elliott identified Title II funds available and their use in the Eugene District in 2002, as follows:

\$ 1,402,255	Total Available (Lane - \$1,245,252.60) (Douglas - \$92,416.07) (Linn - \$64,586.78)
\$ 20,000	Operating Cost
\$ 140,226	Indirect Cost
\$ 1,242,030	Available for Projects and Direct Support

Members discussed RAC operating costs and BLM indirect and project support costs. Mr. Elliott requested feedback from the RAC regarding the 10% overhead, or indirect cost, that the BLM requires to cover such expenses as administrative support, building cost, etc.

Members asked if and how overhead rates are tracked. Bill Gilmore said that a 10% figure was typical for programs funded at the BLM District level and that the District can track annual overhead costs. Ms. Dougan stated that the BLM would not exceed the 10% overhead rate. It was further stated that BLM will assign a separate project number to track all overhead costs related to this account. A separate project number has been designated to track RAC operating expenses such as committee member travel, per diem, etc.

Mr. Elliott explained that the RAC Committee Charter would expire two years from the date it was filed, unless prior to that date it was re-chartered by the Secretary of the Interior. He said the committee could not meet or perform any functions without a valid current charter.

Mr. Elliott said that the RAC would be required to operate under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972. He said its purpose was to recognize the importance of the advice and assistance of citizens in Federal Government decision making processes. He explained that FACA tried to ensure that the advice provided was relevant, objective, and open to the public. He said the law required that advisory committees act promptly to complete their work and comply with reasonable cost controls and record keeping requirements.

Mr. Elliott said all Federal agencies sponsoring advisory committees had to adhere to requirements established by the FACA, as well as those of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). He said the GSA monitored committee activities throughout the government and conducted annual reviews of advisory committees. He said it maintained a database from which advisory committee information could be obtained on the Internet.

Mr. Elliott said the FACA provided that each Federal agency sponsoring an advisory committee appoints a Committee Management Officer to oversee administration of the Act's requirements and a Designated Federal Official with responsibilities, as follows:

- _ Call, attend, and adjourn committee meetings
- _ Approve agenda
- _ Maintain required records on costs and membership
- _ Ensure efficient operations
- _ Maintain records for availability to the public
- _ Provide copies of committee reports to the Committee Management Officer for forwarding to the Library of Congress.

Members took a forty-minute break from the agenda of the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Mr. Mickey left the meeting at this point.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Elliott determined that there were no members of the public present and wishing to address the RAC.

Mr. Wilkening distributed copies of material containing summaries of the costs, benefits, and status of Title II proposed projects for Fiscal Year 2002.

Mr. Wilkening also distributed copies of a document he described as the first page of the McKenzie Road Decommissioning proposed project, inadvertently omitted from material distributed before the meeting.

TITLE II PROJECT TIMELINES

Mr. Elliott stated that the RAC would receive overview presentations regarding Fiscal year 2002 Title II project proposals during the remainder of the meeting and engage in prioritizing recommending them at its next meeting on March 14.

Mr. Elliott reviewed BLM involvement in the development of project proposals. He said projects were initiated and given preliminary review based on land use allocation plans adopted in 1995. He said the purpose of the review was to identify at-risk resources or emergency situations involved in proposals. He said mitigating and proactive factors would also be considered.

Mr. Elliott described National Environmental policy Act (NEPA) procedures and public involvement requirements followed by BLM in considering proposed projects.

Mr. Elliott explained the implications of the Endangered Species Act and other required consultation with state and federal agencies on the evaluation process. He added endangered species consultations can take 90 days with another 45 day extension possible if requested. He said other requirements involved were related to the Northwest Forest Plan (e.g. survey and manage provisions) and engineering considerations. He described procedures provided for protest and appeal of decisions.

Mr. Elliott stated that \$1,242,030 was available for Title II projects in Fiscal Year 2002 and that the total cost of proposed projects currently was \$1,820,400.

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2002 TITLE II PROJECTS

Culvert Replacement and Road Maintenance

BLM Staff Don Meckley reviewed culvert replacement and road maintenance project proposals

contained in material received by members in advance of the meeting, as follows:

- Leopold Creek Culverts
- Cottage Grove/Big River Culvert Replacement
- Goodpasture Culvert Replacement
- Hult Pond Area Roads Chip Seal Paving
- Tyrrell Seed Orchard Access Road Paving

Mr. Meckley stated that each of the projects was in a high need area and had NEPA requirements completed.

Members discussed elements of the proposed projects, as follows:

- Payment sharing with timber land owners in the area of projects
- Future maintenance costs
- Three years of proposals
- Calculation of road improvement costs
- Repayment of road improvement costs from private corporations

Members requested that project-specific maps be provided before the next meeting of the RAC.

Members requested that Environmental Assessments for the proposed projects be provided before the next meeting of the RAC.

Forest Road Decommissioning

BLM Staff Jerry Richeson reviewed road decommissioning project proposals contained in material received by members in advance of the meeting, as follows:

- McKenzie Road
- Big River Spur Road

Mr. Richeson stated that the purposes of road decommissioning were to eliminate fish barriers, reduce sediment production in stream channels, reduce road density, and respond to illegal garbage dumping. He said projects were identified because of the high cost of maintaining roads not used or needed, undersized culverts and unstable sideslopes, indiscriminate use by vehicles, and garbage dumping.

Mr. Richeson explained techniques and procedures for decommissioning roads B removal of stream culverts, re-creation of natural stream topography, erosion control measures, returning areas to more natural states, disconnecting roads from stream systems by tilling to increase water infiltration, digging drain dips, wood debris, and barricades.

Mr. Richeson explained that the proposed projects dealt with 24 miles of road identified for decommissioning out of a total of over 2000 miles of road in the District. He said the identified projects were scattered throughout the District and that none was longer than one and one-half miles. He said no mainline roads were included in the proposed projects and that no access to private property would be blocked by any of the decommissionings.

Abandoned Car Removal

Mr. Richeson described the need to remove abandoned cars in the BLM Eugene District. He said approximately 40 vehicles were found abandoned each year.

Mr. Kent asked if any cost recovery was possible from abandoned cars. Mr. Richeson replied that little had been recovered to date.

Mr. Baker asked if road decommissioning could result in the creation of roadless areas, as described in Federal law. Mr. Lindsey said doing so could create significant issues for adjoining areas. Ms. Dougan replied that the areas where road decommissioning was proposed were served by many other roads. She said she would provide additional information regarding such roads to members before the next RAC meeting.

Mr. Hinman asked if it was possible to repair the road areas proposed for decommissioning. Mr. Richeson replied that such maintenance was always considered when possible.

Mr. Hinman asked if road decommissioning could affect fire suppression access to an area. Mr. Richeson replied that such considerations were evaluated in developing the project proposals. He said access to the areas of all roads proposed for decommissioning continued to be available after completion of the proposed projects.

Mr. Hackett requested that potential concerns about each project be discussed at the next meeting of the RAC.

Members took a fifteen-minute break from the agenda of the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

In-Stream Fisheries Habitat Enhancement and Student Conservation Association Volunteer Program

BLM Staff Nikki Swanson reviewed In-Stream Fisheries Habitat Enhancement and Student Conservation Association Volunteer Program project proposals contained in material received by members in advance of the meeting, as follows:

- _ Big River In-Stream Log and Boulder Placement
- _ Student Conservation Association Fish Habitat Inventory

Ms. Swanson explained how logs and boulders would be placed to improve fish and other aquatic species habitat by increasing river temperature, sediments, and spawning capacities. She said streamside conifers would be pulled into the water whenever possible, creating a variety of flow patterns, trapping organic matter, re-connecting flood plains, and providing a food source for land-based animals.

Ms. Swanson explained stream temperature, habitat, and fish distribution inventories, monitoring, and evaluation conducted by the Student Conservation Association Volunteer Program. She said the work was needed to establish current habitat conditions and baseline data to determine trends in various conditions.

Mr. Kent asked what age students participated in the Student Conservation Association program. Ms. Swanson replied that it was a national program devised for college-age students. She said the person responsible for the program would be at the next RAC meeting to answer specific questions. Mr. Elliott added that other youth programs such as the Northwest Youth Corps would be considered for inclusion in work under this legislation but that the Eugene District has not received such requests from them yet.

Mr. Hinman asked if student-conducted testing was acceptable to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Wilkening replied that student testing was used in other environmental evaluation studies. Ms. Swanson added that most inventory studies were conducted by students. Ms. Swanson explained that SCA students typically did not collect water quality samples as part of their duties.

Mr. Hinman requested that a statement of the acceptability of student testing to the DEQ and EPA be provided by the next RAC meeting.

Invasive Species Control and Inventory and Native Seed Programs

BLM Staff Nancy Wogen reviewed Invasive Species Control and Inventory project proposals contained in material received by members in advance of the meeting, as follows:

- _ Scotch Broom Inventory
- _ Willamette Basin Weed Management Partnership

Ms. Wogen referred to a document entitled *Partners Against Weeds* distributed earlier to members. She identified invasive species currently known to exist in the BLM Eugene District and said they tended to overtake native species, change soil conditions, cause allergic reactions, change fuel and fire behavior, and cause environmental losses in forests, pastures, and farm land.

Ms. Wogen stated that an inventory of species in the District would lead to early detection and eradication of invasive types. She said planting native species tended to keep invasive species from re-infesting cleared areas. She said aerial photographs would be used to map Scotch Broom in the District.

Ms. Wogen reviewed native seed project proposals contained in material received by members in advance of the meeting, as follows:

- Native Seed Collection
- Institute of Applied Ecology, Corvallis, OR. - Native Seed Network

Ms. Wogen discussed the use of native seeds on BLM land for erosion control, road decommissioning, and invasive plant control. She said the proposed native Seed Network would provide Internet-based coordination of demand, production, and research of native species seed.

Mr. Woodard asked what plans were made to deal with Scotch Broom seeds remaining in the ground after the removal of plants. Ms. Wogen replied that it was hoped that re-introduction of native species by seeding areas eradicated of Scotch Broom would prevent significant re-emergence.

Ms. Mogstad asked where weed management efforts would be based. Ms. Wogen replied that such details would be set at the establishment of a contract for the project. Mr. Elliot added that two other RACs were being presented with the same project proposal and that it was hoped it would be able to cover the entire Willamette River Basin.

Mr. Alverson asked how the invasive weed mapping project would be carried out. Ms. Wogen replied that the most significant work of the project would be undertaken with study of aerial maps of the District.

Mr. Fairchild asked if members could be informed of whether the proposed projects were scheduled as single- or multi-year undertakings.

Mr. Woodard reported that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had a long history of providing native species seed. Ms. Wogen replied that the Department was a co-sponsor of the proposed project.

Mr. Alverson asked why there was a need for the proposed seed projects. Ms. Wogen replied that native species seeds were often difficult to purchase for BLM and other projects.

Ms. Lindsey said his experience of commercially growing native species seeds had been disappointing. Ms. Wogen replied that coordination of the program had been improved and the need increased since 1997 when Mr. Lindsey was involved. She said the market for such seeds was available, but that supply and demand was not coordinated.

Mr. Hinman asked for an estimate of the current need for native species seed. Ms. Wogen said current demand was approximately three tons per year, but that it would expand with the proposed project.

Mr. Keller asked if eradication of blackberries had been considered as a Title II project. Ms. Wogen replied that work on such projects was included in new BLM contracts being established, but that the problem was so pervasive that specific parameters needed to be established.

Forest Work Camp and Juvenile Community Service

Lane County Sheriff Deputy Mark Buehrig said the Forest Work Camp project would tie Federal land management agencies in Lane County to its Forest Work Camp correctional facility. He distributed copies of a document describing the purpose and operation of the camp.

Lane County Sheriff Deputy Dan Buckwall described the Forest Work Camp. He said the proposed program would purchase materials and supplies for forest restoration projects. He said the camp built self-esteem, work skill, and educational opportunities for inmate participants.

Mr. Buehrig explained that funding for the Forest Work Camp itself would be included in Title III funding decided by the Board of County Commissioners and that the Title II application was for a companion project. He said that when the camp was operating at its full capacity of 125 inmates, there would be ten Federal forest land crews and two community crews. He said full reporting on the project would be provided.

Mr. Keefer asked if an inventory of Federal land on which Forest Work Camp crews would work had been made. Mr. Buehrig displayed a chart identifying planned work projects.

Mr. Elliott reported that the summary chart of Title II proposed projects distributed earlier had inadvertently omitted the \$233,000 cost for the Forest Work Camp proposed project. He said the \$141,200 identified in the chart was only for the juvenile Community Service proposed project.

Mr. Woodard asked if it would be possible for the Forest Work Camp project proposal to recover abandoned cars to be carried out in conjunction with the BLM Abandoned Car Removal project proposal. Mr. Buehrig replied that since it had not been known it would be included elsewhere, the car removal proposal had been included in the Forest Work Camp project.

Ms. Mogstad asked if women were placed at the Forest Work Camp. Mr. Buckwall replied that there were no women housed at the camp.

Mr. Alverson asked if a link could be established between funding received from Title II resources and work completed by inmates of the Forest Work Camp. Mr. Buckwall replied that the application had identified the work by acreage, but that other calculations would be possible.

Mr. Lindsey reported that inmate work programs in Linn County were totally dedicated to projects of the county and cities.

Ms. Mogstad asked how materials and supplies for the Forest Work Camp would be funded if one or more of the RACs to which applications for the proposed project were made would not be approved. Mr. Buehrig replied that additional resources would have to be provided by the Board of County Commissioners, or work would have to be limited to areas providing support.

Ms. Dougan expressed appreciation to those who had made presentations regarding the proposed Title II projects to be considered at the next meeting of the RAC.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Elliott determined there was nearly unanimous agreement for members to make nominations for RAC Chairperson and that the person receiving the second highest number of votes would be considered elected Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Mogstad nominated Anna Morrison as RAC Chairperson.

Mr. Fairchild determined that he was not eligible to place a nomination as an alternate member.

Ms. Lind nominated James Baker as RAC Chairperson.

Mr. Woodard nominated Ross Mickey as RAC Chairperson.

Mr. Keefer moved, seconded by Ms. Mogstad, that the nominations be closed. The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0, Mr. Mickey having left the meeting.

BLM Staff Doug Huntington collected and counted the ballots. He announced that Mr. Baker had been elected Chairperson with seven votes and that Ms. Morrison had been elected Vice Chairperson with six votes.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Wilkening requested that members caucus in categories and designate first and second alternate members.

Category spokespersons reported designations, as follows:

Category 1: David Schmidt, First Alternate
still to be Named, Second Alternate

Category 2: James Fairchild, First Alternate
Linda Susan Kelly, Second Alternate

Category 3: Philip Barnhart, First Alternate
William Dwyer, Second Alternate

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if a members was absent, could an alternate members or someone else be designated as the member's representative, be counted for the quorum, and hold the member's voting proxy. Mr. Wilkening replied that no other RAC was operating in that manner. He said there was no provision for proxy voting in the RAC Charter.

BLM Regional Staff Maya Fuller stated that it would be possible for the RAC to create bylaws for its operation to answer such questions, but that it seemed unwarranted.

Mr. Wilkening said he agreed with Ms. Fuller because members appeared to be developing operation principles informally.

Mr. Baker said he believed alternate members should be expected to attend RAC meetings because it was their responsibility to assume full membership if a member was unable to continue to serve.

Mr. Alverson asked if it would be possible for members to attend RAC meetings via speakerphone. Mr. Wilkening determined there was no objection to making such arrangements. He said BLM had equipment which would make such arrangements possible.

Ms. Lind suggested that use of speakerphones for meeting attendance be arranged through the chairperson. Mr. Wilkening added that adequate advance notice would also be needed to ensure the availability of equipment and connections.

Mr. Hackett asked when a second alternate member would be chosen for Category 1. Mr. Elliott replied that the process for choosing the alternate would begin as soon as possible. Ms. Fuller added that the Oregon State Office would be recruiting for all current vacancies that have occurred in the western Oregon BLM Districts and that an announcement of the vacancy would be made with the next official meeting notice.

Mr. Woodard asked if FACA meeting notice requirements would be in force for RAC field trips. Mr. Wilkening replied that they would, unless there was less than a quorum of members participating. Ms. Fuller added that the provisions were required to ensure public participation whenever any decisions were made.

Mr. Lindsey asked whether the positions of alternate members would be vacated if they missed two consecutive meetings. Ms. Fitzgerald pointed out that the RAC Charter provided that members may be removed if they miss two meetings, but did not require it. Mr. Elliott pointed out that the Charter provided that alternate members were part of the RAC.

Mr. Keefer asked if there were FACA meeting notice requirements for meetings which were scheduled, but subsequently cancelled. Ms. Fuller replied that public notice of the cancellation would need to be made, but that there was not time requirement involved.

Ms. Fitzgerald proposed that members commit to finishing the recommendation of projects process for Fiscal year 2001-02 at the March 14 meeting.

Mr. Wilkening determined there was consensus that RAC meetings be scheduled for May 23 and June 13 to work on recommendations of projects for the Fiscal Year 2002-03.

Mr. Wilkening reported that the meeting place for the May 23 meeting would be announced and that the June 13 meeting would be held at BLM.

Mr. Elliott asked if it would be helpful to members if BLM staff created a suggested prioritization of Title II project proposals. Mr. Kent replied that he believed doing so would be helpful. Mr. Alverson replied that it would be most helpful to prepare such prioritizations within categories.

Ms. Fitzgerald requested that Aoverlap@ and other sources of possible funding for projects be identified by the next RAC meeting.

Mr. Elliott said that a revised project spreadsheet will be provided to committee members for the March 14 meeting as will project maps.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

